

Rome: Expansion, Army and Law

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After Carthage

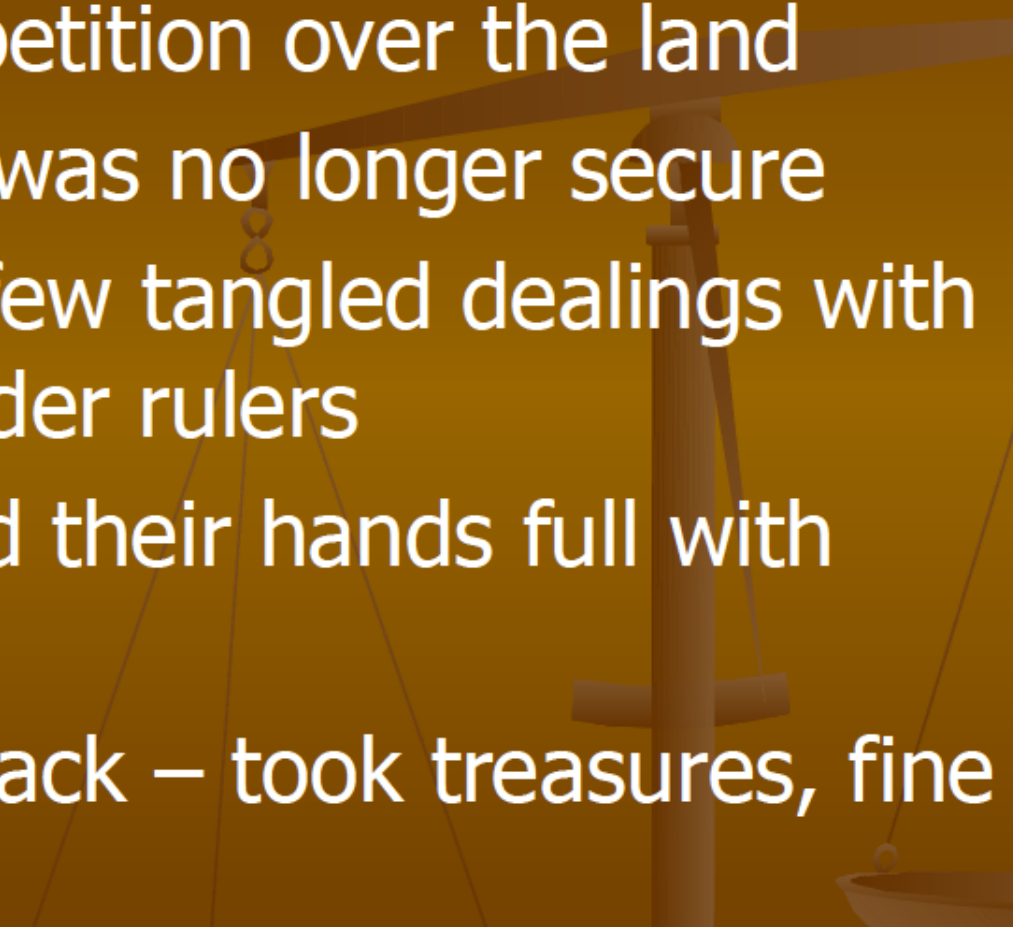
- Carthage was not the only result of expansion
- Greek world in the eastern Mediterranean
- same year as Carthage, the Romans took over another ancient capital
- Corinth – an independent Greek city-state

Death of Alexander the Great

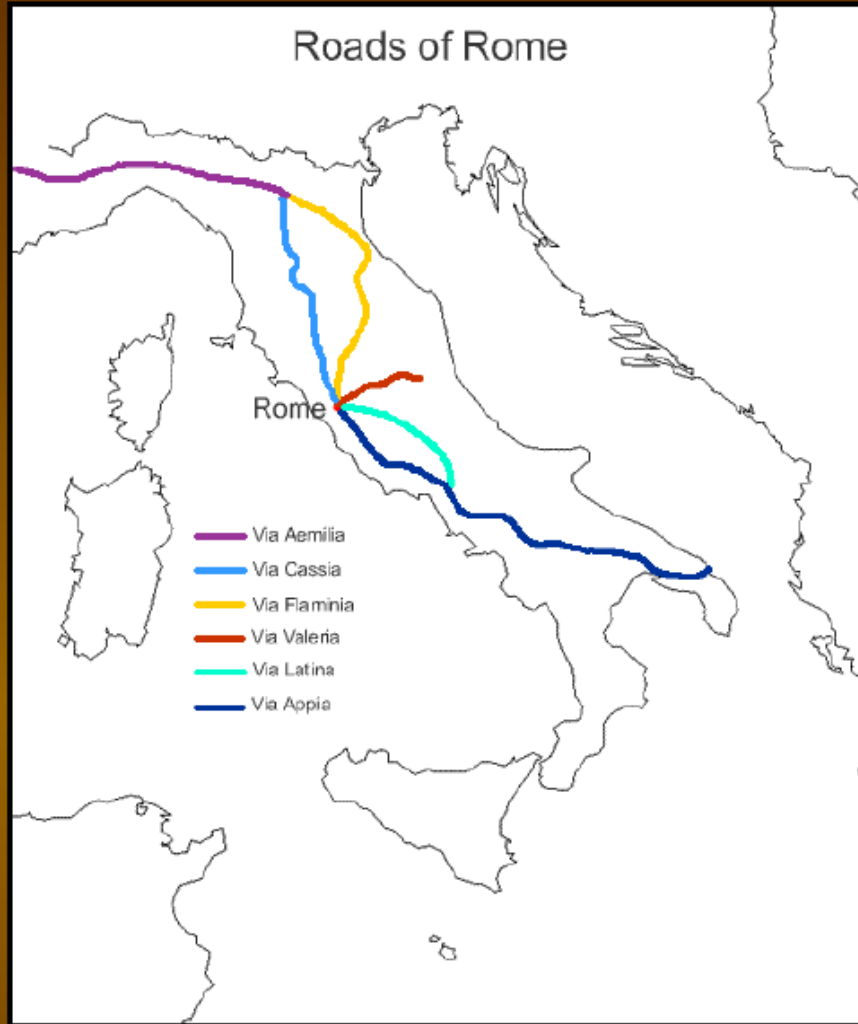
- After Alexander the Great (King) dies in 323 BCE, there is a fight over his empire – causes instability
- While visiting Corinth some important Roman delegates were insulted
- Rome attacked and destroyed Corinth, stealing its treasure and riches
- Marks the beginning of decadence and a love of luxury for the Romans



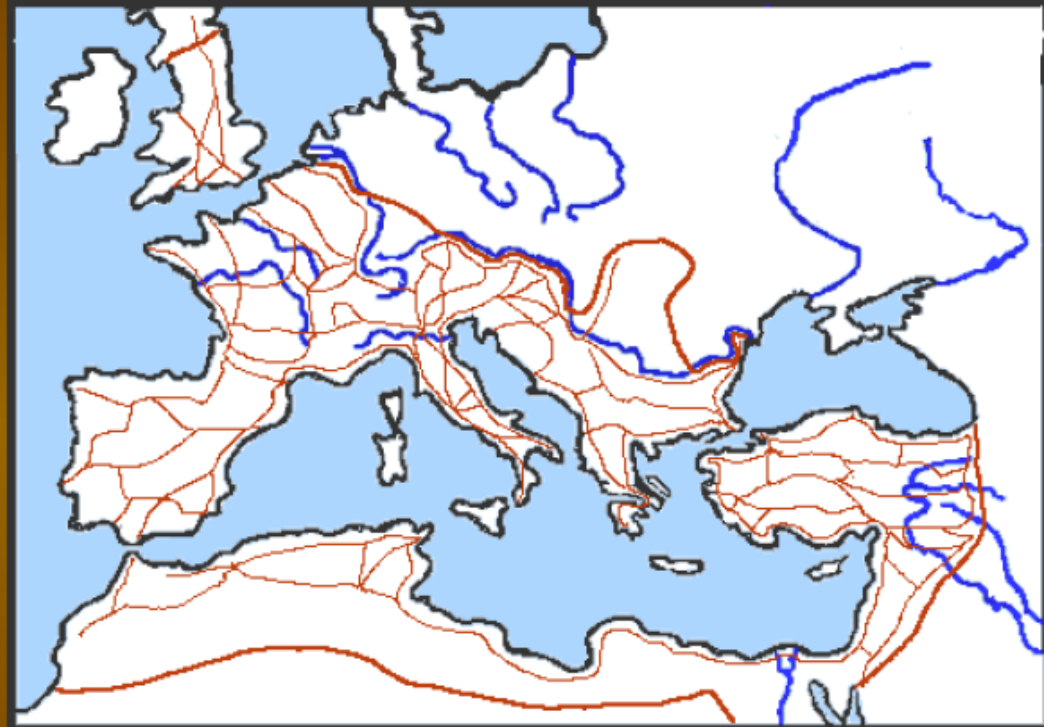
Battle of Corinth

- there was competition over the land
 - Roman trading was no longer secure
 - Romans had a few tangled dealings with the post-Alexander rulers
 - the Romans had their hands full with Carthage
 - launched an attack – took treasures, fine art, furnishings
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Roads of Rome



All Roads Lead to Rome



- First paved road called via Appia (Appian Way)
- Over 310 000 km of road built



Expansion & Trade

Goal to expand land, resources and trade:

- **LAND:** Republic needed land to reward its armies. Romans believed that land was the only important form of wealth, and farming and soldiering were the honorable occupations
- **RESOURCES:** Sicily (grain); Spain (cooking oil); other cities in east (wine, produce, leather and woolen goods)
- **CONFLICTS:** Expansion in south led to clashes with the trading peoples called the Carthaginians (North Africa)
- **TRADE:** Increase in military activity meant an increase in the trade in weapons
- **COLONIES:** settled and run by full Roman citizens who remained loyal (ie. discharged soldiers) and colonies were linked by roads and a unified currency
- **WEALTH:** accumulative wealth gained from collecting taxes and importing goods which paid for massive building projects and paid soldiers



Conflict at Home: Dissatisfaction with the Republic

- Large gap between land-owning rich and the poor
- 133 BCE Tiberius Gracchus was elected tribune



Conflict at Home: Dissatisfaction with the Republic

- Thought he knew how to fix the problem for the poor
- Redistributing land
- However.....he overstepped his authority



Conflict at Home: Dissatisfaction with the Republic

- He announced that he would see re-election as tribune
- This was unheard of
- Rich land-owning Senators in Rome started a riot, and killed Tiberius



Conflict at Home: Dissatisfaction with the Republic

- Tiberius's brother, Gaius Gracchus was elected Tribune in 123 BCE
- He also had a solution to the problem of the poor



Conflict at Home: Dissatisfaction with the Republic

- 1st to satisfy the urban poor, he instituted a free monthly supply of grain
- 2nd he proposed that they re colonize captured cities that had been destroyed by war (Carthage)



Conflict at Home: Dissatisfaction with the Republic

- 3rd he proposed a package of moderate compromises to give some rights to the non-Roman population.
- The population did not support these ideas



Conflict at Home: Dissatisfaction with the Republic

- 121 BCE Gaius Gracchus was declared a public enemy of Rome
- These brothers were trying to bring greater political harmony to Rome



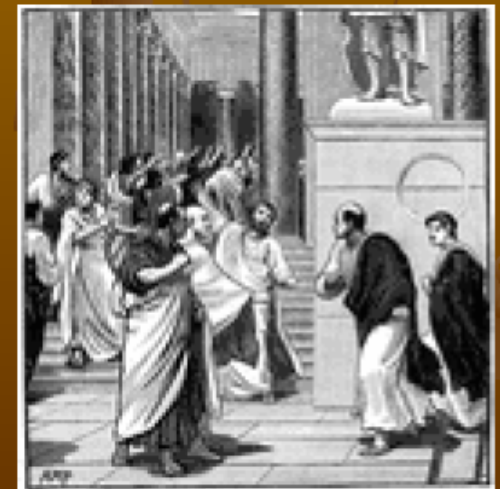
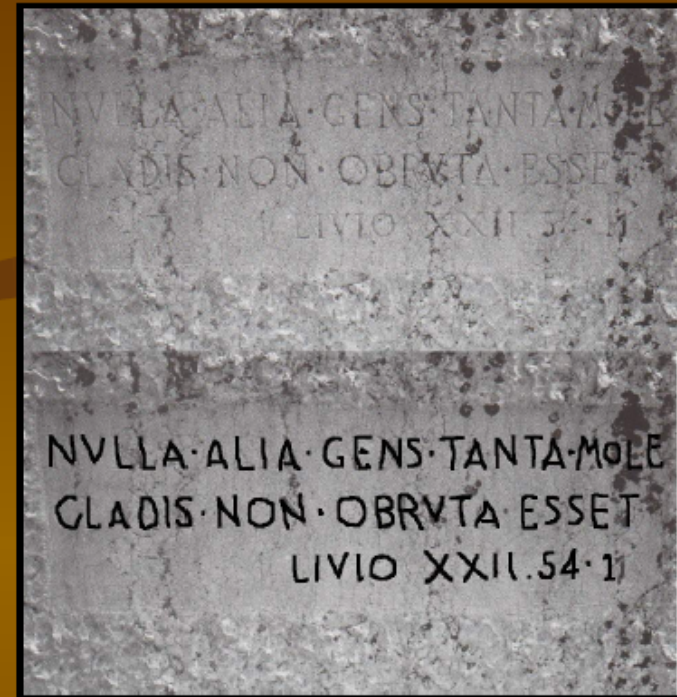
Conflict at Home: Dissatisfaction with the Republic

- This would eventually lead to the downfall of the Republic
- All Free Men within the empire in 212 BCE AD were considered full citizens



Roman Law: The Twelve Tables

- Rome was among few societies that developed laws that were codified (written down) and fully analyzed by jurists
- pressure by the ordinary people to break the monopolization of the law by the patricians and upper class
- Twelve Tables: written 450 BCE in Latin – in the Forum
- Most laws related to civil matters
 - Wills, property rights, court cases, behavior of citizens



Law Continued...

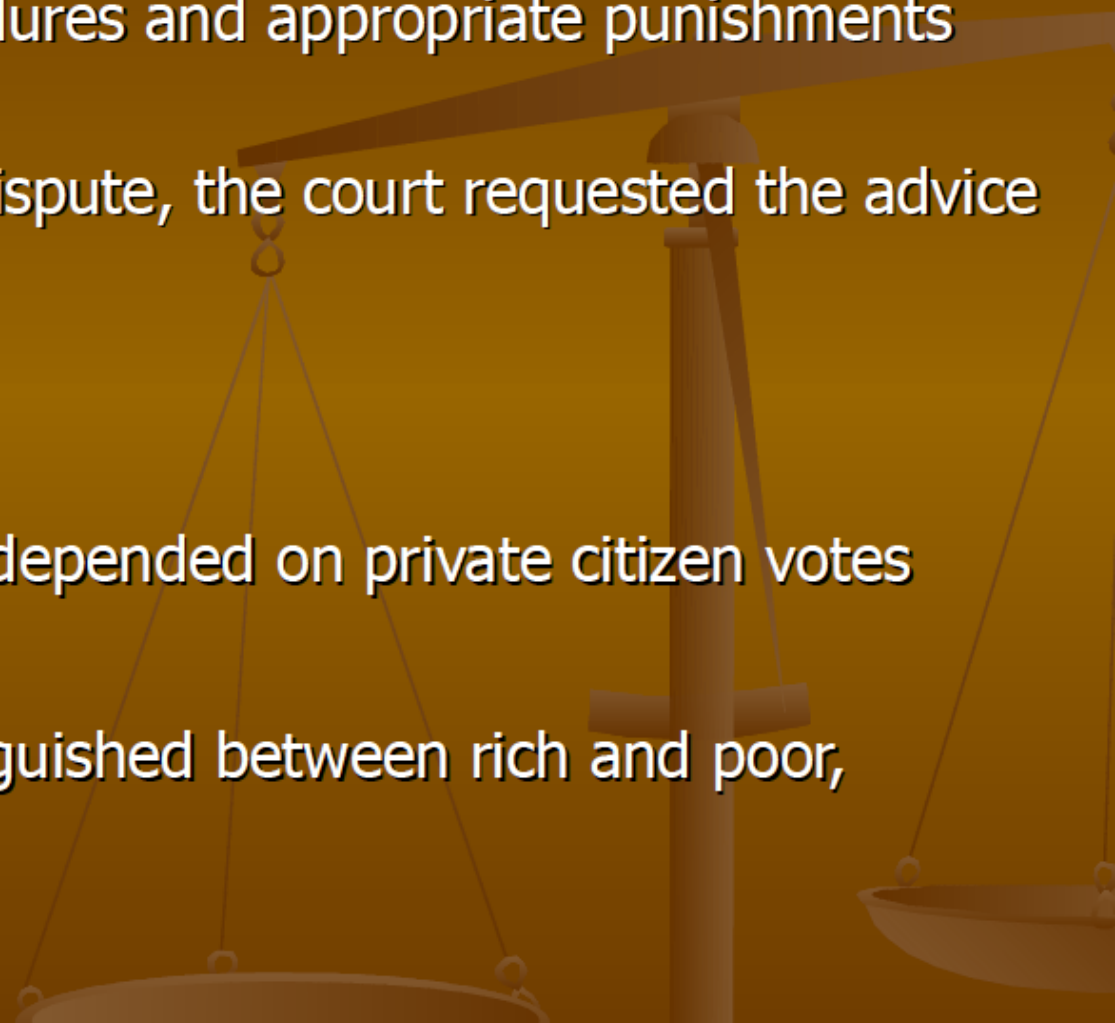
Formed basic legal procedures and appropriate punishments

When there was a legal dispute, the court requested the advice of a panel of jurists

Problems:

- no public prosecutor – depended on private citizen votes

But Roman law still distinguished between rich and poor, freemen and slaves



Discontent with Roman Republic



1. Widening gap between patricians and plebeians
2. Issue of Roman citizenship in colonies
3. Wealth from wars and expansion made leaders (governors and generals) greedy and dishonest, and it also caused the poor people to want more rights
4. Several consuls were assassinated as others tried to take position by force
5. Increasing slave rebellions against severe treatment

Solutions

- continuous attempts to control tensions and help poor (Gracchus brothers)
- Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus= sought land reforms, proposed free grain and more citizen rights... but both were killed

Reasons for Fall of Republic

- state's inability to bridge the gap between rich and poor
- Lack of effective control of Rome's new found wealth & commercialism
- social uprisings of non-Roman Italians over Roman citizenship
- Military reforms of standing army and legions increased power and influence of Roman Generals (ie. Julius Caesar)